

1     ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

          A CCD photoelectrically converts image  
information obtained from optically reading an  
original image, line by line, and outputs an image  
5     signal. Several of the photoelectric sensors of a CCD  
of the CCD portion form an optical black portion. A  
black shading correcting portion corrects the image  
signal using a black reference level. The black  
reference level is obtained from the optical black  
10    portion of the CCD for each line during an operation  
of the reading of the original image. The black  
reference level used by said black shading correcting  
portion for each line is obtained using black  
reference values, each of the black reference values  
15    being data of the optical black portion for a  
respective one of a plurality of lines.

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